THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 11TH JULY.

Two Scotch women were heard talking about the Jubilee; Maggie says:—"I say, Jeannie, de ye ken what this jubilee is a' about?" "What is't?" Jeannie replies: "Oh, ay Maggie, I ken fine what it is. De ye see, after you'r siller widdin, after fifty years that's yer golden weddin, but Maggie, when your man is deed that's your Jubilee."

IN 1885, the largest number of books and periodicals was published in Bengal, the number being 2,731. Then comes Bombay, which published 2,023 works. Then, we have the Punjab, which produced 1,566 books. After it the N. W. Provinces and Oudh, which show 1,290 publications, and then Madras which gave to the world only 867 books and periodicals. No wonder the Bengalis are denounced by a certain section of Anglo-Indians as the most troublesome among Her Majesty's Indian subjects. Intellectual death is what the critics desire for these people.

MR. Hanbury, in the House of Commons, asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, whether he could state to within what distance from the present frontier of Afghanistan a Russian railway line was now laid. Sir J. Fergusson replied:—'The Russian railway at present nowhere approaches within 130 miles of the Afghan frontier. There have been reports that a branch line to Serakhs, about seventy-five miles north of the frontier, has been commenced, but these reports have not yet been confirmed.'

A DEPUTATION waited on the Lord Chancellor, at the House of Lords, on the 30th ultimo, for the purpose of presenting to him a memorial praying that a limitation should be imposed on the publication of unnecessary and obscene details in reports of criminal and divorce cases. The Duke of Westminister presented the memorial, in reply to which the Lord Chancellor said he did not scruple to characterise the publication of matter referred to in the memorial as "a frightful scandal," and he did not despair of finding means of dealing with the subject in future. His sympathy was entirely with the deputation, and his views coincided with those expressed by them. In conclusion, his lordship said he would bring the matter before the notice of Her Majesty's Government. Which is the greater and more frightful scandal—the report of the existence of the evil, or the evil itself? Hypocrisy and dissimulation are the essences of modern civilization.

MR. Gladstone has addressed the following letter to Mr. Bright:—'Dollis-hill, N. W., June 16, 87.—My dear Bright,—I thank you for your letter, and especially for the postscript. You open two points on which I may state my own position, without any polemical spirit, and without any view even of publication, unless you have set me the example. I am aware of no final or general pronouncement about Ulster or a part of Ulster. The only Tory declaration as yet known to me in Parliament is that of Colonel Saunderson—strongly against the severance. Our position is exactly what it was on April 8th, 1886. With regard to conspirators and patriots, I have not, I think, ever used either word, but have endeavoured to describe Irishmen and other men according to their conduct. In the autumn of 1881 I thought Mr. Parnell aimed at the disorganisation of Society and the disruption of the Empire, and so (rightly or wrongly) I described his acts. Since 1881, although he was engaged in overturning the Liberal Government, I have never seen cause to ascribe to him such aims, and have never once uttered any such reproach. Now, still confining myself to conduct, I see him and his coadjutors, the lawfully chosen representatives of the Irish people, demanding in their name a measure which it will be very difficult to show that in principle and within its *present* limitations I have ever condemned. I treat them accordingly; just as in 1879 I denounced Lord Salisbury for piracy (or the doctrines of banditti, I am not sure which) but in 1885, when he was doing right in the Balkan Peninsula, I tried to commend and to support him.—Believe me, as always, most sincerely yours, (Signed) W. E. Gladstone.'

'ACCORDING to information received from Herat,' says the *Novoe Vremya*, 'the English are thoroughly fortifying the place. The walls and ditches are being enlarged, and detached forts are being constructed and adapted to withstand artillery as well as rifle fire. The city is being furnished with an abundant supply of water, enough, in fact, for the wants of a garrison of 10,000 men during a siege of 90 days' duration. Troops are being concentrated both in the fortress of Herat itself and also in the neighbourhood, whence they could be pushed forward with great rapidity, but in the city strong dislike towards the English is noticeable.'

TUESDAY, 12TH JULY.

BEWARE of the telephon! An American physician has arrived at the conclusion that the mortality among subscribers to that convenience is three times greater than among non-subscribers. Its constant use brings on diseases—cerebral, pulmonary and nervous. He describes "telephonism" as over-excitement of the nervous system. We hope the new fact will bring grist to the mill.

IT is believed that the Persian Minister and others have, in recent interviews with Lord Salisbury, dwelt upon the possibility of a Russian occupation of Herat. 'It is not denied that the Czar's forces are within a few *forsakhs* of that place. An Afghan *forsakh* means, it is understood, about the distance which a horse can walk in an hour. It is said that the possible fall of the Ameer's power may be followed by circumstances which would invite such a Russian occupation. The Persians have, in former times, made the possession of Herat an object of war, but now it is understood that the Shah would not lift a finger against the Russians. The event, if it should happen, would, it is supposed, be followed by an English occupation of Kandahar. There need be no doubt of the anxiety which is felt at the Foreign Office concerning the aspect of affairs in and about Afghanistan. Events of deep interest are expected, but it does not appear to be thought that the circumstances are likely to lead to any hostilities in which either Russia or England will be engaged. The important factor in the case is the apparent instability of the Ameer's power and the approach of the Russian forces to Herat, which, if it ceases to be Afghan, will certainly become Russian.'

IN no country is there such a complete system of telegraph for news purposes as in the United Kingdom. Two complete news circuits serve always, day and night, important centres from London, and from these centres there are various other provincial groups served. A third circuit is made up every evening after six o'clock, while frequently in the Parliamentary sessions, or when there is an extra pressure of news, a fourth circuit is made up to all these stations from London. Every office on each of these groups receive simultaneously the news sent from London. Thirty newspapers have the use of special wires from six o'clock in the evening until the same hour the following morning, while a few like the *Newcastle Chronicle*, the *Manchester Guardian*, and the *Scotsman* have two circuits. Whenever any great political event occurs, such as the delivery of a great speech, all the important towns throughout the Kingdom receive simultaneously a verbatim report of the speech, and there is not a town in the country where a daily paper is printed, which is not placed in direct communication with London, after six o'clock in the evening.

BOTH the coffee ring in New York and the corn ring in Chicago have broken down. 'The leading "bull" house in each "corner" has been ruined. Certain firms had deliberately set themselves to buy up all the available corn and coffee with the view of reselling it at an enormously increased price; but the supply proved to be greater than they had anticipated, their purchasing power became exhausted, and, dreading the consequences of having on their hands vast stores of corn and coffee which nobody wanted they began to sell. The immediate result was a panic. Prices declined with terrible suddenness; the "bulls" could not obtain even cost price for their wares; and so the whole fabric so carefully built up came tumbling about their ears, overwhelming them with swift and utter ruin. One firm lost half a million dollars in a day. There are sixteen million bushels of wheat held by the collapsed ring to be sold under the hammer for whatever it will fetch. The coffee ring forced the price of that commodity from 6½ to 22 cents per pound. The Indian term for 'bears' and 'bulls' is *tezimandi*, and the amount of morality prescribed over it by certain Anglo-Indians is tremendous. The evil is the same everywhere.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY.

A LONDON paper says:—'The number of regal personages and princely dignitaries who are to attend the Jubilee of Her Majesty is becoming somewhat bewildering. From all parts of the earth the wearers of crowns or their special representatives are converging upon London, and the concourse of the distinguished will be such as has never before assembled at any event of sovereignty in the history of a nation. The situation is becoming really embarassing. One can scarcely turn without elbowing a potentate. A gentleman writes to complain that, having strolled out of the Opera the other evening, he made proposals to an apparently unoccupied lounger to procure him a cab. The lounger did all that was required of him: it turned out that he was a King. It takes a long apprenticeship in the Southern States of America before you can train up to a shock like that. After a year's experience of having your boots blacked by a Colonel, being served with drinks by a Senator, and having your hair cut, with the offer of a tooth-brush and some pomatum thrown in, by a Judge, you rise "kinder naturally" to sending a King out on errands. But to the less experienced it is an undeniable jar.'

THE LONDON correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* hears that Mr. Herbert Spencer's state of health is causing grave anxiety. He is still, as he has been now for a year past, living at Brighton which he finds agrees with him better than London. But he is scarcely able to see any visitors save intimate friends, the least unusual excitement or exertion being attended with an aggravation of all untoward symptoms and among these sleeplessness. He is still, however, working though but for a comparatively short time daily. He is engaged on his autobiography.

'MONSIGNOR Persico, the Papal Emissary to Ireland, is, it appears, an old Indian ecclesiastic. Thirty seven years ago he was Secretary to Dr. Hartmann, the administrator Apostolic of Bombay. Twenty-five years ago he was consecrated in Bombay Vicar Apostolic of Agra, and from Agra he proceeded to America. Fifteen years later he was in Italy, and was sent back to Bombay on a special mission to Bishop Meurin, who was engaged in settling affairs connected with the Syrian Christians on the Malabar coast. Since then Monsignor Persico has been in Egypt and Italy, resigning his bishopric in the latter country owing to ague and ill-health.'

ACCORDING to the *Army and Navy Journal* of New York, one of the female clerks in the Navy Department has a queer case to settle with the Government. Intending to get married, she applied for thirty days' leave of absence. She was married before her leave expired, and in coming for her pay at the end of the month the question was raised as to whether she could sign a voucher in her maiden name after having changed it legally. The Departmental officials were of opinion that the marriage ceremony had made it impossible for the clerk concerned to receive her money under her old name, and there is no record of her employment by any other. Here is a puzzle for lawyers.

THE *Daily News'* Paris correspondent telegraphs:—The following discovery by Dr. Boughard, of Bordeaux, for preserving dead bodies is important to medical students and artists engaged in anatomical studies. According to a paper read lately in the Academy of Medicine, the tissues of corpses prepared after this method remain unaltered for upwards of two months. The ingredients are 20 lbs. of hydrated sodium borate, containing ten equivalents of water, and 34 lbs. of glycerine at 30 deg. Reaumer. The borate is reduced to fine powder and shaken through a hair sieve. The glycerine is added little by little in such a manner as not to make lumps. The mixture is then brought up to a temperature of 80 degs. Centigrade (176 deg. Fahr.), being meanwhile well stirred to dissolve the borate. The solution is finally

allowed to drip through a woollen cloth. It is of the consistency of glycerine, but can be made of the required thinness by addition of alcohol. It is injected into the carotid or the femoral artery.

STEPS are being taken for the establishment, in Madras, of a school for the sons and relatives of native Chiefs and Zemindars. The question of establishing an institution of this kind was first moved in 1884; and in 1886 the Director of Public Instruction was directed to submit a scheme to Government for carrying out the project. After communicating with the Principal of the Rajkumar College, Kattywar, the Director drew up a scheme involving a cost of Rs. 2,500 per mensem, exclusive of house-rent: but the Government are of opinion that such a costly staff will not be required at the outset, whatever may be necessary hereafter. With the view to giving the project a start, Government have directed the Court of Wards to bring some of the wealthier of their charges to Mardas.

THURSDAY, 14TH JULY.

CAN a magistraate be compelled to give evidence? This question came on for decision, at the Bombay High Court, before Justices West and Birdwood, in connection with an application made by Stephen Howard to direct Colonel La Touche, the Cantonment Magistrate of Poona, to give his evidence of what took place in a certain case tried by him. The following is the judgment delivered by their Lordships:—'Mr. Justice West, in delivering the judgment of the Court, said, the general principle in a case such as the present was that a judicial officer could not be called on to depose as a witness to what had taken place before him, or what had come to his knowledge as such. The principle had been carried so far in England that, in one case, the Lords Justices-in-Appeal said they considered it wrong for a judicial officer even to make an affidavit of what had occurred before him, although the judicial officer in that particular instance was a Registrar in Bankruptcy. In the present case, the applicant was asking the Magistrate to give his evidence, which, too, would be obviously an equally improper thing to do in principle, and would, at the same time, give rise to much inconvenience. A very large number of the cases which go before the Magistrates were disposed of without any elaborate record of the evidence; and the Magistrate who was subjected to give evidence of what was said and done before him, especially a Magistrate who heard cases to a large extent summarily, would have possibly very little time left to carry on his proper duties. He did not mean to say that it was impossible, in any case whatever, that the Sessions Court, or the High Court, should make such an order as the one asked for. But he would say that it should only be made in a case of extreme necessity; and if there was anybody else capable of deposing to what had taken place in the Magistrate's Court, it would be obviously a better course to call that man. Any person present in Court might be compelled to depose as to what was stated in a Court. In the present case, there were persons who were present in Court, and had heard all that had taken place; and, therefore, they were, in a legal sense, in a position to give the best evidence. The present was consequently not a case of absolute necessity.' On these grounds the Court rejected the application.

THE recent amalgamation of the several State Railways with the Eastern Bengal State Railway having greatly simplified the compilation or preparation of accounts of the several lines, considerable deductions are said to have been made in the office of the Examiner of Railway Accounts. The services of about 70 assistants or clerks have been dispensed with. Those who entered the service before the year 1861, and were in pensionable grades, were allowed a gratuity of three months' pay, and those who entered it subsequently when the "Provident Fund" was established, were permitted to draw the whole amount of the subscriptions, together with that of the interest accrued thereon.

THE MAZARIN BIBLE, more properly called the Gutenberg Bible, the earliest book printed with moveable metal types, in original oak boards, was recently sold by auction in London for the sum of £2,650, or about two thousand pounds more than it fetched thirty years ago.

"A PERFECT WIFE for Twenty-five Pounds" is the heading of the newest advertisement circulated in England. 'At first sight it looks as if you could buy a better-half for the money. But you can't. You must get your wife as a preliminary, and if she is not perfect, the lady who issues the advertisement will make her so. She proposes to develope the practical side of woman's nature at the school she is about to open. What debating has to do with it, however, we fail to understand, and most husbands will decidedly bar that subject before they send their wives to the institution. A wife who cannot debate—but, there, we are not properly qualified to speak on that matter, though we have heard a great deal about it.'

FRIDAY, 15TH JULY.

IT IS a very startling thing, observes a London paper, but a fact nevertheless, that our currency arrangements provide a way in which any gentleman or lady, by the outlay of a little capital, may make a comfortable income. 'All that is necessary is to set up a private mint, (it would have to be strictly private, for many cogent reasons, and manufacture good honest silver coin of the realm, exactly of the sort turned out at her Majesty's Mint on Tower-hill.) There would be a profit of nearly 40 per cent., which is the difference between the cost of the raw material and the value of the finished article. Every pound's worth of coin made would, on being exchanged for a sovereign, bring 7s. profit into the pocket of the coiner. Of course, such a proceeding would be a crime; but there are persons whose perception of ethical niceties is so dull that they might easily regard it as only another form of cheating the revenue, which many people who consider themselves honest think no crime at all. The coin so manufactured would be as good as any issued from the Mint; it would always be of full value to the "last holder;" it would be exchangeable at any time for good: who, then, would be injured except the Government? To palm off even the finest pewter as silver is, of course, "a lubberly thing for to do;" but we are by no means sure that every body would regard it as equally despicable and criminal to manufacture coin of genuine metal and pocket the seigniorage.' Only, the Indian Penal Code prescribes imprisonment for seven years, and a heavy fine for such offences.

THE Resolution of the North West Government on the expenditure Report of the Lucknow Municipality says: 'The increase in the receipts from the octroi (which yielded a net income of Rs. 2,45,821 against Rs. 2,35,997 in 1885-86) is satisfactory, especially when the exemption from taxation of the important item of wheat is taken into account. The cost of collection was kept within 6·54 per cent., of the octroi income.' But the Resolution is entirely silent as to the petty tyranny and the embarrassments to which travellers and traders are subjected by the toll-collectors.

SAYS the *Advocate of India*:—'The mining interests of the Nizam's dominions are looking up. Messrs. Hughes and Molesworth have been directed to survey the Singareni Coal Fields in view of an estimate of their value being obtained; it is further reported that the Hyderabad Mining and Trading Company have disposed of these fields for the sum of one million sterling. The old Golconda mines are also being overhauled by an expert of the diamond trade. He examined the old working, as well as those on the Kistna river, in December and January last, so that an industry which in the days of Tavernier employed many thousands may yet again be revived.' Popular impression was that these diamond mines were all exhausted. It now remains to be seen that these diamond mines are like perennial springs, and will never fail to yield a rich harvest if properly worked. It will any way be another nail on the coffin of the Nizam. It will be to the Nizam what the British Burma Trading Company proved to Theebaw.

IN his latest contribution to the *Madras Times*, Sir Madhava Rao urges the employment of British officers in Native States. He writes:—'Considering times and circumstances and approaching political conditions and contingencies, I think it highly desirable to promote the employment of European British officers in the service of Native States; but to make such officers acceptable to Native States, they have to be very carefully selected in order that they may be found to possess ability, judgment, and tact, sympathy for Natives, due respect for the authorities of the Native States, self-control and a conciliatory disposition. Obviously the more these good qualities are possessed, the more would Native States desire to employ such officers. When any officer is found to misbehave, or to show a gross want of any of the aforesaid good qualities, the Government should withdraw him without making a difficulty about it.' Does Sir Madhava Rao want to discard his countrymen for their impertinence to ridicule his singular utterances,—utterances habitual to garrulous old age,—regarding social reform, or, does he want to propitiate the gods for new honors? Did he ever for a moment think, what chance he would have had to become a Prime Minister successively in three native States had the idea been acted upon before? Perhaps he wants to kick down the ladder after having himself, by its aid, got to the top of the house.

SATURDAY, 16TH JULY.

A REQUISTION has been sent by some of the Commissioners of Dacca asking the Chairman of the Municipality to convene a meeting at an early date to consider some matters connected with the Municipal case, now pending before the Third Moonsiff of Dacca. 'It appears,' says the *Dacca Gazette*, 'that a great dissatisfaction prevails among a large number of people interested in the case about the Commissioners appointing two Judge's Court pleaders at a minimum cost of, say, Rs. 30 per diem, for the defence. As the case has been unusually prolonged, there having been nearly fifteen sittings already, and there is no knowing how many more sittings it will take, perhaps another fifteen, it is feared that the pleader's bill will come to an amount much larger than the value of the case itself.' What does it signify, if so much money is wasted? It will be the tax-payer's money which will be frittered away in this manner. Well, the Municipal authorities want to teach a lesson to the persons who would grudge a paltry 200 or so for the reception of such an august personage as the late Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. Let these persons now enjoy the luxury of paying bitterly for the complaint they make about wasting Municipal money. No more effectual remedy than the one hit upon by the Dacca Municipality can be conceived to put down the querulous spirit of the age. We fancy this is a move on the part of the astute Municipal Commissioners, who voted away public money for *chirags* and triumphal arches, to circumvent their opponents. Doubtless, they also calculate upon a certificate of good character from the rate payers, and a proof of their action being consonant with the feelings of the public. But we hope and trust the Munsiff and the village Hampdens who have taken a lead in the opposition will not fail to perceive the true character of the trick. There are, we believe, some lawyers among the plaintiffs and they should be stiff enough to overcome such a manœvre. The cost in the case should be borne by those who have misappropriated public money.

'THAT since the passing of the Act VIII of 1885,' says a Dacca contemporary, 'Zemindars and Talookdar have been experiencing all sorts of hardships in realising rents from their ryots is a fact that cannot be denied even by the warmest supporter and admirer of that Act.' We receive frequent complaints from East Bengal about the difficulty of realising rents since the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The case of small landholders especially requires serious consideration. They are entirely at the mercy of their recusant tenantry. But, *vive la Bagatelle!* Some people have earned the cheap credit of being ryots' friends.

A LADY is the author of the witty definition of woman's sphere that 'It is bounded on the north by her husband, on the south by her baby, on the east by her mother-in-law, and on the west by her maiden aunt.'

MR. RUSKIN on Books.—Mr. Ruskin has sent the following letter, dated Coniston, 3rd June, to the *British Weekly*.—'Your note of farther question, what books have most influenced my style, and which are my favourites, has lain these seven days in my desk becoming less answerable the more I thought of it. Every book that I like influences my style, and fifty years of constant reading have carried me through more pleasant books than I can remember. But what I suppose to be best in my own manner of writing has been learned chiefly from Byron and Scott. Of favourite books I have—none; every book on my library shelves is a favourite in its own way and time. Some are the guides of life, others its solaces, others its food and strength; nor can I say whether I like best to be taught or amused. The book oftenest in my hand, of late years, is certainly Carlyle's "Frederick." It is one of the griefs of my old age that I know Scott by heart; but still, if I take up a volume of him, it is not laid down again for the next hour; and I am always extremely grateful to any friend who will tell me of a cheerful French novel or pretty French play. There is little difference, as far as I can see, between me and any other well-trained scholar in the liking of books of high cast and cheerful tone. But I imagine few people suffer as I do from any chance entanglement in a foolish or dismal fiction.'

THE total area of India has been determined as 1,382,624 square miles, and the population as 253,891,821. Although immense tracts of country are annually cultivated, according to the most recent survey 10,000,000 acres of land suitable for cultivation have not as yet been ploughed. At the same time 120,000,000 acres are returned as waste lands.

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INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZZAR STREET.)

(SESSION 1887-8.)

LECTURE by Babu Ashutosh Mukerjee, M. A., F. R. S. E., to-day, [the *18th Inst.*, at 4 P. M.

Subject : Analytical Geometry; the Straight Line.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the *19th Inst.*, at 7½ P. M.

Subjects : Laws of Magnetic Action, and Distribution of Magnetism in Magnets.

LECTURE by Dr. Rajanikanta Sen, on *Friday*, the *22nd Inst.*, at 5 P. M.

Subject : Laws of Chemical Action and Classification of Metals.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Thursday*, the *21st Inst.*, at 4½ P. M.

Senior Class, *Subject* : Milk Analysis (continued)

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on *Thursday*, the *21st Inst.*, at 7½ P. M.

Subject : On some important Properties of Matter

PRACTICAL CLASS in Physics under Babu Jagadish Chunder Bose, B. Sc., on *Saturday*, the *23rd Inst.*, at 3 P. M.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
Honorary Secretary.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JULY 18, 1887.

COMPARISON.

WHETHER we accept honest Dogberry's witty reading, 'comparisons are odorous,' or the more matter-of-fact version of Dean Swift, 'comparisons are odious,' the world has accepted the principle that it is ungracious to make comparisons. Comparisons always involve some harm, or some injustice to some body or other. They are also, not unoften, fruitful causes of mischief. To say A is better than B is to hurt B, and if one said A is not so good as B, the hurt recoils on A. Hence it is that the saying of Dean Swift has run into a proverb. It is certain, however, that, like most proverbs, it is one-sided. It does not comprehend the whole truth. It looks at the shield from one side only, and leaves the other quite unnoticed. Comparisons are not always 'odious'; they are at times most appropriate. When Amoroso compares his Dulcinea's face with the moon, or her lips with coral, he does a good thing for himself, and hurts no one. One may also, with much effect, admire Miss Poggy's homespun as infinitely more befitting than Worth et Cie's latest cut and finish on the person of Arabella Wilhelmina Vere de Vere. Indeed such comparisons are unavoidable, and they are current everywhere, in every community, in every state of society. Poets would lose their vocation if comparisons were prohibited, and conversation would lose much of its charm. After such an embargo five o'clock tea may be given up as an empty formality. In the ordinary affairs of every-day life comparisons are not only unavoidable, but peremptorily necessary. Buckle's History of Civilization would have to be torn into tatters, for every page of it indulges in comparison of some one thing or person or act with another. We can do nothing without comparison, it is as essential to the conduct of worldly affairs as are the ideas of number, measure, and weight. We lose all conception of proportion as soon as we give up the foot-rule of comparison. Nor is this necessity for comparison felt only in regard to material objects; it is equally imperative in regard to manners, customs, and morals. There is nothing perfect in this world; all things are progressing towards an ideal perfection; but none has attained it yet. Indeed, the ideal itself is uncertain, and dependent upon diverse factors, themselves more or less uncertain. Most nations accept their respective scriptures to be the standard; but as those scriptures are discordant, they do not suffice to afford a fixed basis for discussion. When cosmopolitan questions have to be decided comparisons are our only resource. The importance of comparisons has been greatly enhanced of late by the discussions which have been raised in connection with social reform in this country. Certain customs, practices, and beliefs of our people are held to be bad by reformers, both native and foreign, and their opponents naturally resort to comparisons to prove that the charges brought against them are either not valid, or such as to be less obnoxious than similar customs elsewhere. In doing this the customs, practices and beliefs of the people of Great Britain, their opponents find, to be the most convenient to refer to, and most effectual in framing their replies. It is generally admitted in India that the people of Great Britain are the most civilized, and so they stand before us as models of perfection, and in all enquiry as to what are the defects of particular subjects of enquiry, what can be more natural than to compare our institutions with those of Englishmen? But natural as it is, it is open to a serious objection. It often leads to exposures of a very unpleasant kind, and Englishmen fail not to resent them as offensive. Mr. Wordsworth, of Bombay, a calm, quiet and scholarly gentleman, generally very reasonable and kindly towards the people of this country, goes the length of denouncing such comparisons as 'insulting.' Others use much more opprobrious terms to characterise them. Most Anglo-Indian newspapers are positively rabid about them, and go the length of denouncing those who resort to them as disloyal and scurrilous. Our contemporary of the *Englishman* has lately suggested a remedy for the evil. He desires that the merits of questions at issue should be discussed in an abstract form, without any comparison, and at first sight the idea appears very taking. It has all the elements of the goody goody story books, and is as innocent as fresh milk to an infant in arms. But it is too weak for men of mature growth. To us it appears very like an adroit attempt to put on a pseudo-moral gag. Generally speaking, our people would be very glad to adopt the principle if they could. It is always disagreeable to them to refer to defects in English institutions. Englishmen being the rulers of the country, it is the interest of our countrymen to cultivate the good-will of the ruling race. To annoy Englishmen by unpleasant comparisons is to hurt the interests of the people of India: to please them is to secure their co-operation. They are willing, too, to abide with entire and implicit confidence in the sense of justice of their rulers, though they are not unware that Buckle, the greatest English historian of civilization, is of opinion that, even between the rulers and the ruled of the same nation, to 'encourage that blind and servile respect which men are too apt to feel for those who are above them, and which, wherever it has been generally practised has been found fatal to the highest qualities of the citizen.' For our part nothing would be more pleasant to us than to live in peace and good-will with our neighbours, and we have always tried to practise the virtue of forbearance to the best of our ability; but we find it impossible to adopt the suggestion of our contemporary in its entirety. We can, and do, forbear when our countrymen are twitted for their shortcomings and defects. Our Anglo-Indian contemporaries and their fags, Fridays, and toadies, never cease to descant about the moral inferiority of Indians, and we simply take no notice of their objurgation, for to notice them would be to provoke unpleasant discussion. But matters assume a different aspect when, on the strength of such revilings, our rights and privileges are proposed to be taken away from us. When our nation is to be proscribed from service under the Government of the country on the ground of false, frivolous, or exaggerated charges of unfitness, it would be wrong, it would be pusillanimous, it would be criminal, to preserve our silence. We would betray the interests of our countrymen, and forfeit our claim to their confidence, if we abstained from taking action, when action was most needed. We would be guilty before our conscience of a grave dereliction of duty, if we did not abide by our profession, to do all that lies in our humble power to protect our people. Take, for instance, the charge of immorality, bribery and corruption, so persistently urged against Indians. If it be correct, we must admit that no Indian should be admitted into the Government service; we are in duty bound to make the admission. But can we do so, without enquiry as to the validity of the charge? If not, we must resort to comparisons. Human nature is nowhere perfect. There are faults in every nation, and the business of the historian, the statesman, and the publicist, is to ascertain, not the absence or presence in the abstract of any one quality or a number of qualities, but the proportion in which they exist in particular races or communities. This means nothing more or less than comparison, and as the proposition is to supplant the Indians by Englishmen, the comparison must be between these two nations. It would totally destroy the cogency of our argument if Englishmen were excluded from the purview of the enquiry. It is needless here to say that the enquiry should be honest and fair; it would be no enquiry if it were not honest; but this very condition requires that there should be no reservation on account of national, social, or party considerations. The whole case should be set forth in all its details, and no sense of individual offence should permit the suppression of untoward facts. Take another instance. The Government of India has lately denounced us as uncivilized, and proposes to mend our laws in such a way as to bring them to the level of those of 'civilised nations.' We may overlook the charge of being uncivilized; a mighty Government from the height of its greatness may denounce whom it pleases. That breaks no bones. But laws are matters of every-day importance, and we cannot consent to the change of our laws without enquiring which are the 'civilised nations' whose laws we are to copy, and what has been the effect of those laws in their respective countries. This again means comparison. Again, take an instance. The question at issue is whether we should have consensual late marriage as in England, or retain our system of non-consensual early marriage? To decide this we must, we cannot but, enquire what have been the results of the two systems in the countries in which they obtain currency? This once again means comparison—comparison pure and simple; and if it brings to light facts which are calculated to hurt the feelings of any one, that is inevitable, and cannot be avoided. Mr. Wordsworth may, in his sense of irritation, denounce the exposition as a personal 'insult;' but those whom he denounces for their 'barbarous,' 'inhuman,' 'brutal' customs cannot, on that account allow their system to be exchanged for something which, they feel convinced, will do them serious harm. They cannot sacrifice their domestic peace, their respect for their religion, their abhorrence of sexual immorality in women, for the sake of consulting the good feeling of their critics. It is not in human nature to do so. We advocate no recrimination; we would denounce it as most unbecoming and ungentlemanly. But to argue a question in all its details is no recrimination, and we demand the right of fair discussion without fear or favor. It is remarkable that those who object to comparisons are the foremost in indulging in them. The number of times the Native Press find fault with English customs bears no comparison to the interminable tirade that assails them about the faults of their countrymen. It is the law of self-preservation that forces the Native Press to resort to comparison, and it will be time enough for them to forego comparisons when their assailants set the example. Any way we hold that in the conduct of the affairs of this world comparisons are not only unavoidable, but absolutely necessary, and those who think otherwise, do not practise what they preach.

EXTRA OFFICIAL WORK.

AT the last meeting of the Municipal Corporation there was an animated discussion on the recommendation of the Town Council, 'that no officer of the Corporation be allowed to undertake any private work or business unconnected with the Corporation. The recommendation of the Town Council was carried by a 'narrow majority.' The recommendation was opposed by the Chairman, but was supported by a large body of native Commissioners.

To understand the bearings of the question, it will be necessary to mention the facts which gave rise to the above discussion. The officiating Chairman recorded a Note 'on the employment of the Engineer on private works.' This

Note was placed before the Town Council at its meeting of the 4th ultimo. The Note says, 'There is no clause in the Engineer's agreement forbidding him to undertake work outside of the Municipality. In the Town Council of the 9th March, 1880, there was a full discussion of the principle involved, and a Resolution was then passed that no officer of the Corporation be allowed in future to undertake, or engage in, any works or business unconnected with the Corporation without the previous sanction of the Chairman, and that the Chairman do report each case therewith to the Town Council for confirmation.' The question came up again for discussion before the Town Council in August 1884, and a resolution was passed to the effect that in future 'the Engineer be prohibited from undertaking any private work.' Mr. Kimber, the Engineer, received two applications in May last from private parties for his services. These applications were laid in the Chairman's hands, and he thought it right to lay the facts before the Commissioners, and ask whether they were willing to reconsider the Resolution arrived at in 1884. 'It seems to me,' Mr. Cotton says, 'that, subject to the condition laid down in 1880, there is no objection to reverting to the practice which obtained during the years 1881, 1882, 1883, and the early part of 1884. Statistics show that the privilege was not then abused. The Engineer should, of course, never be allowed, to undertake outside work to the detriment of his legitimate duties, and it may, I think, fairly be left to the Chairman, subject to the control of the Town Council, to decide on this in each particular case. But I see no reason why the Commissioners should altogether deny to the public the benefit of their Engineer's opinion in every case.'

We see Mr. Cotton's opinion is decided about the matter. He says that the privilege granted to the Engineer in 1880 was 'not abused.' But it was pointed out by one of the Commissioners at the Town Council Meeting of the 4th of June last that in a particular case, in which the Engineer was allowed to take up outside work against the Resolution of the Commissioners, he had to be in attendance at the High Court for for four or five days for hours together! Well, here was a case, in which the Municipality lost the services of their Engineer, for four days, for which they paid so dearly. What happened in one case, might have happened in others; and as no limit was fixed as to the extent in which private work may be undertaken, the Municipality is entirely at the mercy of their own Engineer, who may take their money, and do another man's work. This is no imaginary case which we have put. Mr. Rowe, a former Surveyor of the Calcutta Municipality, who was allowed to undertake private work, abused the privilege granted him in such a flagrant manner, that it became a positive scandal. He undertook extensive private work, absented himself from his regular office work, and used to be constantly subpœnaed to give evidence in the High Court in connexion with private *Butwarahs* and disputed boundary cases. The Municipality was obliged to take severe notice of his neglect of duty, and the privilege granted him was greatly curtailed. The case of Mr. Williamson was no better. He also greatly exceeded the limits prescribed by the Municipality. These facts will show to Mr. Cotton that if an officer of the Municipality be allowed the privilege, there can be no guarantee of his not abusing the power given him. As to the hardship of denying the public 'the benefit of the Engineer's opinion in every case' the hardship is more imaginary than real. In Calcutta the opinion of an expert is easily available, and any person choosing to pay for it, can get it, without depriving the Municipality of the services of its paid officers. Mr. Cotton says that the Engineer's professional opinion is in considerable demand by the public, and it is for the public good that he should be consulted on important occasions under the restrictions prescribed by the Resolution of 1880. Mr. Cotton forgets that if the Engineer's 'opinion is in considerable demand,' his services will be constantly wanted, and as 'his opinion will be for public good,' both the Chairman and the Town Council will have considerable hesitation in prohibiting him from undertaking a private work in any particular case. Sir Henry Harrison allowed Mr. Kimber to undertake private work even in violation of the strict rule of the Municipality that no such privilege should be allowed. What safe-guard then would there be against the abuse of the authority which may be granted by the Corporation? No safe-guard that we can conceive of would be effectual in protecting the interests of the Municipality.

Dr. Macleod, at the last Municipal meeting, took exception to the wording of the recommendation made by the Town Council. He said that in its present form, the recommendation was 'absolute, unfair, unusual, unnecessary, impolitic and impossible.' The worthy Doctor has grouped together epithets, which, if they have been correctly applied, at once annihilate the ground upon which the Town Council depended for support. His brother Commissioners, however, were unable to accept his *ipse dixit* in deciding upon the matter. Babu Durgagati Banerji—who opposed the amendment moved by the Doctor that the Town Council's resolution be amended—gave a clincher to the Doctor's argument, by quoting the Government Resolution (No. 2873, dated August 28,1875) to the effect that 'it is a well-understood principle that the Government does not allow its officers to take any pay or fees whatever from any other Government, body, or individual, unless the services of such officers are by special permission lent to such Government, body, or individual.' The Government does not think this rule to be either 'unfair' 'impolitic,' or 'impossible,' and the native Commissioners cannot be blamed, therefore, for their obtuseness of understanding in not appreciating the fineness of Dr. Macleod's argument. As Babu Durgagati put it, the Government did not allow its own officers to take any private work, and he did not see why any officer of the Municipality should be permitted to do so, as the Municipal officer was handsomely paid and enjoyed the same privileges in respect of leave and pension as Government servants. If it was deemed desirable to allow the public the benefit of their Engineer's professional opinion, he would propose that the fees paid for such work be credited to the Municipality; every call thus attended to meant so much time and attention drawn away from municipal work, especially when it was seen that their Engineer's opinion greatly facilitated the winning of a case in a court of law.' Dr. Macleod's amendment was lost, and the original motion was carried.

We are sorry Mr. Cotton, with his clear judgment and high rectitude of purpose, did not see the snare which was spread for the Municipality. Jobbery, in every shape, we must strongly condemn, even if in doing so, we have to tread upon delicate ground. The large bonuses which were lavished away by the Municipality the other day, has been jobbery enough, and another cannot be tolerated so soon.

SIR ASHLEY EDEN.

THE hope we expressed last week for the recovery of Sir Ashley Eden from the recent attack of apoplexy which we then announced has not been realized. Sir Ashley succumbed to his illness on that very day. This announcement will doubtless fill our countrymen with deep sorrow. They took a lively interest from an early period in his career in this country. They hailed him as the emancipator of the Indigo serfs of Bengal. They welcomed him to the *masnad* of Belvedere with the most cordial greetings. They marked their sense of his services to this country on the occasion of his retirement by heartfelt demonstrations of gratitude. It was only the other day that they held rejoicings on the occasion of unveiling his memorial statue in the metropolis. And they have now to mourn his loss. We of this paper watched his career in India with unceasing interest, and ever looked upon him as a sincere and earnest friend of the people of Bengal, and it has always been a source of satisfaction to us to know that our estimate of his character was never falsified. He was always true to his professions, and true to his duty, and he has now left a name which will be long remembered with respect and kindliness.

Sir Ashley Eden came to this country with a very favourable recommendation. He was the nephew of the good, genial, kind-hearted Governor-General Lord Auckland, and the people expected that he would not be wanting in those traits of character which made his uncle so dear to them; and they were not disappointed. Sir Ashley made it an object of his life to uphold the good name of his family. Born in November 13, 1831, he derived his early education, first at Rugby, and subsequently at Winchester, from which institution he was sent on to Haileybury. His father, Lord Robert John Auckland, who succeeded his brother the Earl of Auckland in the Barony of Auckland in Ireland and Durham, in England, the Earldom becoming extinct, was Bishop of the not-very-rich see of Soder and Man, and had a large family. He wisely thought that a post in the Civil Service of India was not an unbecoming provision for a third son. Sir Ashley arrived at Calcutta on May 22, 1852, and, after a short novitiate at the Rajshayi Collectorate, was transferred to the Sub-Division of Nattore, and thence to Aurangabad in the Moorshedabad District. At the last-named place he established a reputation for zeal, activity, ability and resourcefulness which marked his character throughout his career in this country. The Santal insurrection broke out while he was at Aurangabad, and he was the first Civilian officer who had to face it, and he did it with such consummate tact and ability that he was selected to be the principal assistant to the Commissioner who was deputed to settle the affairs of the disturbed district. On the organization of the Santal Purgunnahs into a non-regulation district his official designation was changed to Deputy Commissioner, and in that capacity he did excellent work in reducing the purgunnahs placed under him to peace and order. After a short absence on medical certificate, during which he studied the condition of the Indian emigrants at Mauritius, he was on October, 1856, gazetted Magistrate of Murshidabad, but was employed as Joint-Magistrate at Baraset. This post he held till August, 1859. Here he sympathised deeply with the hardships which the tenantry endured from the illegal action of Indigo-planters, and his exertions culminated in the emancipation of the indigo ryots in all the deltaic districts of Bengal. This was an achievement which at once endeared him to the whole of the peasantry of the country, though it proved disastrous to those who had thrived by oppression. At a much later date he was able, with the cooperation of our present Lieutenant-Governor, then Commissioner of Patna, to afford much relief to the indigo ryots of the Province of Behar. The relief in the latter instance was not complete; but it did not entail the losses which the planters sustained in the Bengal districts. Sir Ashley's connexion with Baraset ceased on August 26, 1859, when he was appointed to officiate as Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

In April, 1860, he was posted as officiating Magistrate-Collector and Salt Agent of Cuttack, but that was only for a few months, as he reverted to the Junior Secretaryship to the Board within a few months, and finally left it on March 12,1863, when he was appointed one of the Secretaries to the Government of Bengal at the beginning of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Sir Cecil Beadon. The last post he held till his promotion to the Chief Commissionership of Burma in April, 1873. During his tenure of office in the Board of Revenue he was, in 1861, deputed as Envoy and special Commissioner to the Court of Sikkim, and there concluded an important treaty with the Maharaja of the place. Two years after, he was deputed on another political mission—as Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of Bhootan, but it terminated in an unfortunate fiasco. The Secretary of State, however, exonerated him from all blame. His administration of Burma was characterised by nothing original, no new departure, no special policy. His great aim there, as elsewhere, was not to undo existing institutions, but to infuse in each department life, vigour, activity and efficiency. He utilized the old Phoongi schools of Burma to promote popular education, repressed oppression with an iron hand, and did all that lay in his power to promote trade and commerce. In the last respect he had an arduous task to achieve. The internal trade of British Burma was all but entirely conducted by the people of Upper Burma, and facilities for it were

frequently and very seriously disturbed by the Court of Mandalay. However, his intercourse with that court was generally friendly. On his return from Burma, in April, 1875, he was nominated an Additional Member of the Council of the Governor General of India; but he held the office only for a few months. During the whole of the year 1876 he was absent from India on furlough, and soon after his return he was appointed to the high office of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, which he held for nearly the full period of the service except for a few months when he was absent on special duty as President of the Army Commission, which sat at Simla during the autumn of 1879. According to the rules of the Service his period of office at the head of the Bengal Government would have terminated in November, 1882, but an offer having been made to him of a seat in the India Council which fell vacant in March of that year, he left this country at the fag end of April in that year.

Of the nature and value of his services in this country we shall not attempt a detailed review on the present occasion. We have often dwelt on them and at great length, and it is needless to iterate. The Government always held his services in great esteem, and that was the secret of his rapid promotion in the Service, the knighthood of the Order of the Star of India, and the gift of a seat in the India Council before he had completed the full time of his service in this country. He was a greatly trusted officer of Government, and his advice was always treated with the highest consideration. The part he took during the Indigo disturbances greatly estranged him from his countrymen in Bengal, so did the action he took in recommending what subsequently became notorious under the name of the 'Ilbert Bill'; but so transcendentally great were his merits that at the public meeting held at the Town Hall on the occasion of his retirement, the resolution to commemorate his services was moved by Mr. Morrison, then President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and foremost representative of the non-official Europeans of this country, and Mr. Branson, the most violent opponent of the Ilbert Bill, moved the resolution for a marble statue. If we call to mind the fact that on one occasion it was seriously proposed to remove Sir Ashley Eden's portrait from the meeting-room of the Chamber of Commerce, though not actually carried out, the number and social position of the Englishmen who joined the Town Hall Meeting, the proceedings of that meeting were a complete vindication of the high character of Sir Ashley Eden's administration of the country. Nothing could be more complete. To turn from the European to the Native Community. Sir Ashley was the original author of the Rent (subsequently called the Tenancy) Bill. It was highly prejudicial to the interests of the landowning classes, and by no means favorable to the peasantry. If any selfish consideration could affect the opinion of the people of the country the proposed Bill was just what should have at once alienated the people from him; but it did not. They had the fullest confidence in the rectitude of his good intentions, in his cordial sympathy for their welfare, in his high sense of justice and fair-play; and never did they utter a single syllable against his Government. Again, it fell to his lot to punish more members of the Service to which he belonged, than to any of his predecessors. He never hesitated to censure or punish those whose conduct merited reprehension; but he was nevertheless more honored, respected, and loved by his brother officers, than his successor, who made it a point to shield the members of the Service to the utmost of his power. It is not often that a memorial statue can be appealed to as the sincere token of esteem of every class of the community; but the one which the citizens of Calcutta unveiled the other day at the corner of Dalhousie Square is truly an honest token of respect and gratitude. The encouragement he held forth, both from his private purse and the Government exchequer, for the promotion of literature and science, was always liberal and in every way worthy of the high position he held in the country. Race antagonism he detested with all his might, and his invariable policy was to bring together the governing and the governed races into friendly contact. He often invited Bengali gentlemen to private dinner at his house. On one occasion when a dinner was to be given to his honor in a neighbouring district, a native member of the Civil Service was excluded from the list of guests, and when the matter came to his notice he at once sent a message saying that he would not attend the dinner if an immediate apology was not made to the excluded officer, and he was invited to the dinner. This trait in his character was well developed from an early date during his sojourn in this country, and he was a frequent guest at the weekly refections of the late Union Club, in whose welfare he took a deep interest. As a writer he was remarkable for a terseness, vigour, and pointedness, which we seldom find in official literature. He never beat about the bush, nor sought for round-about euphemism to hide his thought. He thought vigorously, and with an unfailing directness of purpose, and he wrote exactly as he thought. In his early years he wrote largely for the press, and to his high honor be it said that he preferred the native press for the publication of his contributions. For some time he regularly wrote for the late *Indian Field*, and it is a source of great satisfaction to us to remember that this paper often had the honor of receiving highly esteemed contributions from him. In him the people of Bengal have lost a valued friend and well may they mourn for this heavy loss.

THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION REPORT.

THE 'slaughter of innocents' which characterised the Entrance Examinations of 1885 and 1886 led to the appointment, in July last, on the motion of Mr. Cotton, of a Special Committee of the University Senate "to enquire into and report on the system under which candidates for the Entrance Examination are admitted into the University." The names put on the Committee were in every way unexceptionable, and we had expected that the subject would be thoroughly sifted by them. But we have been disappointed. The report of the Committee is now before us, and we look in it in vain for any trace of an enquiry. Perhaps there was an enquiry, but the members of the Committee have not thought fit to give the public any idea of it. A dissenting member records that there was no enquiry. The report is confined to a number of suggestions, to do this, to change that, to undo something else in the veriest spirit of trimming. When the subject came before the Senate a strong attempt was made to adopt the report without due deliberation; but it was defeated. Professor Maheschandra Nyayaratna moved a resolution to refer the report to educational authorities for their opinion, and it was adopted. The object of the resolution was good, but it was addled by faulty wording. The reference is made to "Inspectors of schools and heads of affiliated institutions," and they are the least interested in most of the suggestions made. The heads of schools who send up candidates for the Entrance are the parties who know best where the shoe pinches. They have the fullest experience of the wants and capabilities of the schools placed under them; and they have been, we know not whether deliberately or otherwise, excluded. This is the more remarkable, as Dr. R. Mitra, one of the Members of the Committee, particularly dwelt in his minute of dissent on the impracticability of carrying out the recommendations of the Committee without doing serious harm to a large number of the weaker schools. With this statement before them, it was the duty of the Senate to consult those who are likely to be injured for no fault of their own. But they overlooked it. The only way now left open for preventing the evil is for the heads of schools to come forward and give their opinion as to how far they are in a position to carry out the recommendations of the Committee. True, they have not been asked; but that does not in any way preclude them from voluntarily coming forward to urge their objections, if they have any to urge. They are in duty to themselves and the institutions they represent bound to do all that lies in their power to prevent mischief, and we hope and trust they will not be remiss in their duty. None can blame them as officious, and there is no indignity in addressing the University authorities on matters of public interest. We can assure them that there are friends at head quarters, and they can fairly count on their cooperation. In order to help the heads of schools and the public we publish elsewhere Dr. Mitra's minute, which will give them a clear idea of what is proposed and what are the evils apprehended. We would have included the report of the Special Committee, but want of space prevents us from doing so. We hope the *Indian Miror* or the *Statesman* will supply the omission. It is observable that some of the gentlemen who have signed the report did not think it worth their while to attend the meetings of the Committee. Doubtless they had the fullest confidence in those who did attend and get up the report, and took their work on trust; but the Senate and the public had a right to expect that they should have brought their own individual opinions to bear on the work entrusted to them. They were not appointed as mere dummies to swell the list.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS Honor the Lieutenant-Governor starts on his tour on Wednesday next.

SIR Auckland Colvin goes to England, early next month, on three months' leave. He comes back in November to take up the reins of office as Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces. During Sir Auckland's absence, Mr. Westland will officiate for him as Financial member of the Vice-regal Council.

IN the House of Commons on July 9, on a division being taken, the third reading of the Crimes Bill was agreed to by 343 against 262 votes. Reuter telegraphs that the Bill has passed through Committee, without amendment, in the House of Lords. It will soon be, we are afraid, the law of the land. All Mr. Gladstone's efforts have been abortive in arresting the progress of the Bill. Serious rioting is reported from Belfast. But as the Orangemen are about to gain their point, and the Home Rule question is about to be shelved, no hostile demonstrations are now necessary to overawe the Government. The Land Bill also is making progress. Its second reading has been moved in the House of Commons. The Irish cause is not prospering, and notwithstanding the great agitation that has been going on in both the United Kingdom and among Irishmen in America, the Government is about to succeed in carrying out their policy of coercion. Woe, woe, to the Emerald Isle!

How is the vacancy created by the death of Sir Ashley Eden to be filled in the India Council? Is it to be Sir Rivers Thompson, or Sir Alfred Lyall? With regard to the first public opinion is dead set against him in India, and we do not believe a seat will be given him at the Council Board to do further injury to the people of this country. As for Sir Alfred Lyall, his administrative ability is undoubted, and his experience at the 'Foreign Office' may stand him in good stead in dealing with Russian questions. But his want of sympathy with the hopes and aspirations of the people of this country, and his pronounced cynicism do not point him out as a fit successor of Sir Ashley Eden. Mr. Ilbert's and Sir Charles Turner's names have been mentioned in connection with the vacancy which is about to occur by the retirement of Sir Henry Maine. No objection can be made with regard to either of these gentlemen. Both of them are respected and esteemed in India for their broad sympathies and liberal views.

THE French Press has assumed a very hostile attitude with regard to the Anglo-Turkish Convention. French opinion is so decidedly pronounced against it that we believe England will not insist upon the articles being strictly carried out. England will not, of course, willingly forego the advantages which she has already secured in Egypt. But she will have to make considerable concessions, we believe, with regard to the

question regarding the 'absolute neutrality of Egypt under the suzerainty of the Sultan.' In face of the attitude assumed by the French people, it will certainly not be politic to insist upon the treaty stipulations being made effective. As fresh complications have arisen, the evacuation of Egypt, we are afraid, will be postponed to an indefinite date. Sir Drummond Wolff was received by the Sultan on Friday last, but no agreement was arrived at. It is not in the Sultan's power to effect any settlement in face of the new difficulties which have arisen. Since the above was written Reuter telegraphs that the Convention has been refused by the Porte, and Sir Drummond Wolff has left Constantinople.

A MARINE Court of Enquiry is being held at the Port Office, at the instance of the Government of Bengal, 'for the purpose of investigating all the circumstances connected with the loss of the steam ship *Sir John Lawrence* in the Bay of Bengal on the 25th of May last.' The Court is composed as follows :—

C. H. Reily, Esq., Chief Presidency Magistrate, President, Captain H. de Smidt, and E. Trelawney, Esq., Superintendent, P. and O. Company, members.

MR. G. C. Kilby, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, is conducting the enquiry on behalf of the Government.

MR. J. Orr, solicitor, appears to watch the proceedings on behalf of Messrs. Macneill and Co., the agents of the vessel.

Evidence with regard to the sea-worthiness of the vessel has been taken ; and some of the grave allegations made concerning the steamer by Captain Newstein, a former chief officer of *Sir John Lawrence*, have also been gone into. The enquiry is keenly watched by the public, and we hope the result will be such as to justify Government to take measures to meet the ends of justice.

MR. C. P. L. MACAULAY has been spoken of as the successor of Mr. Westland, who goes on furlough at the end of the year.

WE are glad to hear that Sir Alexander Cunningham has been granted a special pension of Rs. 2,000, in addition to the ordinary pension to which he is entitled. The eminent services which Sir Alexander rendered to the Archæological Department have been fittingly recognised by the grant of this special pension. We earnestly hope he may long be spared to enjoy his well-earned pension.

HER Majesty the Queen Empress has presented £1,000 to the funds of the Imperial Institute. Anything the Sovereign does is, of course, above criticism. But the smallness of the donation from our august Empress to an Institution, from which so many advantages are so sanguinely expected, does not tally with our Indian ideas of Imperial munificence. We make reference to this, because public expectations were high with regard to the help which was to be given by Her Majesty. The example set by the sovereign will have the effect of checking the flow of contributions from Indian princes and chiefs and noblemen.

MR. Basanta Kumar Mallik, the eldest son of Mr. O. C. Mallik, has, we are glad to hear, passed the Civil Service Examination. He stands tenth on the list.

AT THE durbar held by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor on Friday last, at the Bengal Secretariat, the following gentlemen were invested with the titles of honor which it has pleased our gracious sovereign to confer upon them :—

Raja Rameshwar Sing, Bahadur, of Durbhanga ; Nawab Abdul Latif, Bahadur, C. I. E., of Calcutta ; Raja Mahendra Lall Khan of Midnapur ; Raja Durga Churn Laha, C. I. E., of Calcutta ; the Hon Raja Peary Mohun Mookerji, C. S. I., of Utterpara ; Rai Kailash Chunder Mukerji, Bahadur ; Syed Ashgar Reza, Khan Bahadur ; Syed Moazzim Hossein, Khan Bahadur ; Moulvi Serajul Islam, Khan Bahadur ; Rai Ambica Churn Roy, Bahadur ; Rai Abinash Chunder Banerji, Bahadur; Rai Soorajmul Jhoonjhoonwalla, Bahadur ; Rai Rajendra Nath Mittra, Bahadur ; Rai Radhica Prasanna Mukerji, Bahadoor ; and Rai Ram Dass Roy Chowdhury, Bahadur.

The first four gentlemen were conducted separately by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the front of the dais, and presented to the Lieutenant-Governor. In addressing them, His Honor briefly mentioned the services they rendered to the State for which the distinctions were conferred upon them, and had a a kind word, expressing his own personal regard, for each of them. Raja Rameswar Sing, Bahadur, was 'the scion of an old and noble house and gifted with great natural abilities and abundance of means,' and His Honor felt no doubt that the Raja would 'use these advantages to the good of his people, and that he would have an honorable and distinguished career before him.'

In addressing Nawab Abdul Latif, Bahadur, His Honor said :—

To you, this addition to the honours which successive Viceroys had been pleased to confer on you, comes as the crown to a labourious career which will, I trust, be devoted for many years to come, as it has been in the past, to the welfare of your fellow countrymen, and especially to the advancement in mental and material progress of your Mahomedan co-religionists.

Raja Mahendralal Khan is 'the representative of a very ancient family in Midnapur which received its honours from the Mogul Government ; he devotes his wealth and influence as his father did before him to the service of his fellow countrymen. In endowments and donations to schools, libraries and hospitals, in the construction of the Narajole embankment, and, above all, in the remission of rents to his tenantry in bad years, he set a noble example, and it was as a recognition of the many acts of benevolence and public spirit both of himself and his father that the distinction of Raja has been conferred on him.'

Raja Durga Charan Law, C. I. E., came in next, and was thus addressed by His Honor :

RAJAH DURGA CHURAN LAHA.—I welcome you here to-day with great pleasure ; as one with whom my acquaintance dates back a quarter of a century. Whether as a leading representative of the native mercantile community, as member of the Legislative Council, as Sheriff of Calcutta, or as a trusted adviser of Government, and exponent of the feelings of your countrymen, you have always had the esteem and respect of all classes. In all these capacities you have rendered valuable service to your country, and to the Government ; service which was recognised three years ago by the bestowal on you the Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire, and which is now in the year of her Majesty's Jubilee further rewarded by the title of Raja which the Viceroy has been plesed to confer on you.

To Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji, his Honor said :

RAJA PEARY MOHUN MUKERJI.—Among the many congratulations that you will have received to-day none, I can assure you, will be more sincere than my own. Your position as representing the British Indian Association, the wealth and influence of your family, your services as an Honorary Magistrate, your weight as a Legislative Councillor, are known to all. I have also known you as a colleague in long and arduous work, as a firm, skilful, courteous opponent in debate, and as one who secured the respect and esteem not less of his opponents than of his supporters. I trust that you may long live to enjoy the dignities which have been conferred on you, and I have now much stisfaction in investing you with the title of Raja.

The gentlemen receiving the titles of Rai Bahadur and Khan Bahadur were presented together to His Honor, and the sunuds conferring the titles were handed to them by the Chief Secretary.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies of investiture His Honor made a neat and appropriate speech regretting that the durbar could not be held at Belvedere, 'owing to the tyranny of bricks and mortar.' After referring to the Jubilee rejoicings in England, and 'the universal outburst of loyal affection' towards our soveriegn by our countrymen, Sir Steuart Bayley spoke, in feeling terms, of the death of Sir Ashley Eden. Then offering his congratulations to the recipients of honors that day, he ended by saying :

'Do not rest contented with what you have done, but advance further along the same lines, and let your example inspire others to go and do likewise, and to all of you I wish long life and prosperity.'

THE following gentlemen have been appointed to conduct the Calcutta University examinations of 1888 :

M. A. AND B. A.

English : F. J. Rowe, S. C. Hill, K. Deighton.
Mental and Moral Science : H. J. Stephen, A. Thomson.
Sanskrit : M. C. Nyayaratna, Krishnakamal Bhattacharya.
Mathematics : W. Booth, C. Little.
History and Political Economy : W. T. Webb, A. F. R. Hœrnle.
Physics : J. Eliot.
Chemistry : A. Pedler.
Botany : Dr. Prain.
Geology : Fritz. Noetling

FIRST ARTS.

English : H. M. Percival, A. C. Edwards, J. Hector, N. N. Ghose.
Mathematics : M. Mouatt, J. H. Gilliland, Bipinbihari Gupta, Gaurisankar De.
Sanskrit: Rajkumar Sarvadhikari, NilmaniMukerji, Nrisinha chandra Mukerji, Rajendra chandra Sastri.
Physics : Father Lafont, W. H. Wood, S. A. Hill, J. C. Bose.
History : J. Wilson, Krishnabihari Sen.
Logic : A. E. Gough, Girijabhushan Mukerji.

ENTRANCE.

English : K. S. Macdonald, M. Prothero, A. P. Begg, R. Carter, A. H. Pirie, J. Edwards, J. Morrison, C. A. Andrews, Nilkantha Mazumdar, Sasibhushan Datta, Brajendrakumar Sil, Herambachandra Maitra.
History and Geography : Suryakumar Adhikari, Ramnarayan Datta, G. C. Bose, Kalisankar Sukul, Biresvar Chatterji, Khudiram Bose, Mahendranath Gupta, Adityakumar Chatterji, G. Lorimer, P. Mukerji,
Mathematics : H. Thomson, G. W. Kuchler, H. H. Anderson, Rajkumar Sen, Sarat Chandra Mukerji, Baidyanath Basu, Kisorimohan SenGupta, Debsankar De, Brajamohan Rakshit, Ramchandra Mazumdar.
Sanskrit : KaliprasannaBhattacharya, Kunjlal Nag, Umacharan Banerji, Haridas Sastri.
Bengali : Brajanath De, Sivanath Sastri, Biresvar Pande, Rajanikanta Gupta.
Hindi : Rai Sohanlal.
Uriya : Chaturbhuj Patnaik.
Urdu : Syed Shamsmul-Huda, Abul Khair.

ENTRANCE, F. A., B. A., M. A.

Latin : W. R. Macdonald, C. W. R. Tepper.
Arabic and Persian : Col. Jarret, Maulavi Ahmed.

LOCAL.

DR. R. MITRA'S MINUTE ON THE REPORT OF THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

I dissent from paragraph 5, which recommends Chemistry as a substitute for Physical Geography, and insists upon its teaching with experiments.

I object to the recommendation :—

First —Because it is open to the same objections which have led to the rejection of Physical Geography.

Secondly —Because it betrays a want of adequate conception of the sequences of science.

Thirdly —Because Chemistry forms no necessary part of a universal training for Entrance students.

Fourthly —Because the recommendation will involve a loss of opportunity which should be properly utilised.

Fifthly —Because Chemistry cannot be satisfactorily taught in the generality of Indian schools.

2. When the teaching of Physical Geography was proposed by Sir George Campbell, about 16 years ago, I was the first to oppose the project. I held that Physical Geography was not an elementary science, but the application of most of the elementary sciences to the elucidation of certain physical phenomena, and no one who was not well grounded in those sciences could at all satisfactorily follow lessons on that subject. The proposition, I described, was one of about the same value as that of placing the cart before the horse, and totally unsuited for this country, where our boys did not, at home or in the lower froms of the school, acquire any knowledge of even the most fundamental facts regarding matter and motion. My opposition, however, proved vain, and the proposition was adopted. Since then I have never missed an opportunity of urging my objections and it is a source of satisfaction to me to observe that a majority of my colleagues have now resolved upon doing away with the anomaly. The substitute proposed, however, is open to the same objections which have led to the rejection of Physical Geography. Chemistry presupposes a knowledge of the first principles of matter and motion. Without that knowledge, not even the simplest operation of Chemistry can be intelligently grasped ; and as there is no provision made in our schools to teach those principles, nor any arrangement at the homes of the students to acquire them privately, I hold the proposal to be a faulty one.

3. The second objection is a sequel to the first. It is unquestionable that the rudimentary principles of matter and motion form the ground-work of the whole circle of the Physical Sciences, and in every systematic course of teaching, they should be taught first and foremost. It would be a waste of labour to attempt to impress this fact on the minds of intelligent people. It is, I believe, self-manifest. In England little boys are made familiar with several universal principles of Physics by other methods than school-teaching, but even there Chemistry before rudimentary principles is held to be unsuitable. No less a personage than Professor Balfour Stewart, writing for the School Board of London, lays down, in the Preface to his 'Experimental Physics', that 'the study of the Introductry Primer will, in most cases, naturally precede that of either of the above named subjects (Experimental Physics and Chemistry); and then it will probably be found best to take Chemistry as the second and Physics as the third stage.' It is, I believe, universally admitted that, age for age, Indian youths are less fitted by domestic training for the study of Chemistry than English youths, and the recommendation is that, we should force the former to take up a book which would be difficult to the latter, and which was prepared expressly with the object of being preceded by another. There is nothing in the condition of Bengali youths which justifies this departure.

4. My third objection is that Chemistry forms no absolutely necessary part of a universal training for boys who prepare to enter a college. It is the furthest from my wish in any way to decry the importance of Chemistry. I hold it in high estimation, and urge that all who can afford to learn it should by all means do so; but I demur to the theory that a boy is not qualified to enter a college who has not imbibed a cursory knowledge of the non-metals, as given in Mr. Roscoe's little primer. Such knowledge cannot be of the smallest use in many departments of learning. My colleagues themselves are of this opinion, for they recommend that the subject should be optional with those schools which can provide for its teaching. Had they thought that a knowledge of Roscoe's Primer was *absolutely* necessary for one and all, they would not have made such a recommendation. No plea of difficulty should justify the abandonment of that which is peremptorily and absolutely necessary.

5. It has been said that "Chemistry was the legitimate introduction to the F. A. Science course, as at present constituted." This is not correct. The text book in the F. A. course now is Ganot's 'Natural Philosophy,' and there is nothing in those chapters of it which are read in the colleges which require a previous knowledge of Roscoe's Introductory Primer. As a popular treatise, it is to a great extent self-contained, and needs very little from the outside. The only part of it which bears directly on Chemistry is the chapter on gases, and that contains everything that one can learn on that subject in Roscoe's book.

6. The difficulties which I advert to above are serious. It would be a trite axiom to say that Chemistry cannot be properly taught without experiments. It would be infinitely better not to teach it at all than to teach it simply by rote like the mantras of the snake-charmers. The only question at issue therefore is, how far can we have teaching with experiments without injury to the advancement of general education? For experiments we require competent teachers and suitable apparatus; and we have neither. Even B. A. candidates in the B. course in the Presidency College are not afforded the means for making experiments with their own hands in the College laboratory,—the privilege, if I am not misinformed, being limited to the Honour and M. A. candidates. In other colleges where laboratories exist the same system obtains; but most of the colleges have no provision whatever for experimental teaching of Chemistry. Under the circumstances, it is hopeless to expect that a sufficient number of competent teachers can be obtained for our Entrance schools. The total number of teachers required will be about four hundred and fifty. The Calcutta Science Association teaches science practically; but, to judge from the weekly advertisements issued by it in the *Hindu Patriot* newspaper, the practical class is limited to Chemistry, and the number of pupils there is exceedingly limited—about a dozen weekly. It would be vain to calculate upon a large supply of teachers from that source. Were the case otherwise, and a supply of teachers could be had, their pay would be an insurmountable bar to their being largely utilised. The cost of the instruments, all to be imported from Europe, would likewise be a serious difficulty in the way of the poorer schools. The cost is estimated at about rupees three hundred, besides a standing monthly charge for chemicals. Many of the schools cannot afford to obtain even wall maps for the teaching of general geography, and to them the idea of monthly supplies of chemicals would be absurd.

7. When this phase of the subject was discussed in committee with reference to experimental Physics, Sir Alfred Croft admitted that about ten per cent. of the weaker schools would be unable to provide the necessary apparatus. As chemical instruments and apparatus, though less costly at the first start, are liable to more frequent breakage, and the cost of chemicals is heavy, the percentage must be higher. From my own inquiries I am satisfied that about twenty per cent. of the poorer Entrance shools would be forced to give do the idea of teaching up to the Entrance standard. If so, we have to decide whether it would be better for the Indian community at large that some few boys should learn to handle retorts and crucibles at the sacrifice of twenty per cent of our Etrance schools, or the schools should remain, and the country should wait till a future day for the teaching of experimental Chemistry. Up to this time education has advanced very rapidly without the use of philosophical toys, and I am firmly convinced that we would do well to follow the course which has proved so successful, and defer the the experimental teaching to a fitting opportunity bereafter.

8. These objections will doubtless be confronted by the remark that the difficulties I advert to have been fully taken into consideration by my colleagues, and it is to meet them that they have proposed the Chemistry course to be optional with such schools as can afford it. Of course there can be no objection to an optional subject, and if boys chose to qualify themselves in so useful a science as Chemistry, the University would do well to take note of it. I would go further and readily agree to its holding examinations in other elementary sciences, not even excepting Music. The question, however, has to be looked at from a different standpoint. One general subject (Physical Geography) having been abandoned, the question arises whether we should recommend another in its place, compulsory on all candidates, or let off those schools which plead poverty, and require those which urge no such plea to teach something extra. I dislike the second branch of the alternative. Had the option been given to the boys it would have been something; but to schools it is absurd. It is observable that the profession which a boy is in after life to follow is not determined until after the Entrance examination, and to force before that time all the boys of a particular school to learn a subject for which some of them may have no occasion afterwards, or for which they have no natural aptitude, is a hardship. It involves a great waste of time and labour. I would insist upon a general course for one and all, and leave those who are able to learn more than what we insist upon, to learn what they like, in addition to the fixed course. Now, the omission of Physical Geography as a general subject gives us a legitimate opportunity to introduce in its place something of universal interest, and which everyone should know, whatever may be his future course of life or study. Such a subject presents itself to us in the form of a primer on matter and motion. It is almost as essential a basis of learning as Grammar or Geography. No man should do without it, and it is sure to prove useful in every branch of learning. It is impossible that there should be any difference of opinion as to its value and importance. Some have objected to it on the ground of the difficulty in providing instruments for its proper teaching; but I look upon the objection as frivolous. Experimental teaching is not needed for the purpose. Broad general facts have, in the first instance, to be taught categorically. For all practical purposes, I think the Introductory Primer by Professor Huxley will be quite enough for our purposes, at least to begin with. It should be taught in the same way in which we teach beginners the rules of Grammar, or the axioms in Mathematics, or the principles of Physical Geography, *i.e.*, mainly by rote. I name the text, partly because it conveys a clear idea of what I want to be taught, and partly because it is the leading text-book in all the Board schools in England; but I would not object to any other book of the same character and extent. I would make it compulsory on all Entrance candidates, and leave them after that to learn as much Chemistry, or Botany, or Drawing, or Music, or whatever else they choose, provided they do not, as regards marks, in any way handicap those boys who do not take up any extra subject. I hold that such a text-book would be a far better introduction to Ganot's 'Natural Philosophy' in the F. A. course than Roscoe's Primer can possibly be.

9. The next recommendation I object to is the scheme of marking laid down in paragraph 11. The Committee was appointed *'to enquire into and report on* the system under which candidates for the Entrance examination are admitted into the University. Its primary duty was, therefore, 'to enquire into' and and to point out the defects of the present system, and then to suggest reforms, if it thought proper, though the resolution of the Senate is silent on the subject. The necessity for the inquiry was felt on account of the unprecedented failures at the examinations in 1885-86 and 1886-87, and the first thing for the Committee to ascertain was the cause or causes which led to those failures. This they have not done. They do not ascertain the nature of the disease, but haphazard suggest remedies, the value of which connot be rightly judged without reference to the past history of the Entrance examinations. It may be all very good to suggest improvements, but our primary duty is to ascertain existing evils, and to point out how to remove them.

10. To confine my attention to the failures, I find that the average number of failures from 1876 to 1883-84 ranged from 45 to 52 per cent. During the last three years of the period the ratios were :—

Session.	Total of Candidates.	Total of failures.	Ratio of failures.
1881-82	2,937	1,493	50 per cent.
1882-83	3,111	1,602	51 ,,
1883-84	3,591	1,752	48 ,,
Average	3,213	1,615	50 ,,

During the whole of this period an equal number of marks (100) was apportioned to each subject. In 1883, a scheme was adopted which allotted varying numbers of marks to different subjects, thus :—

English	200	Second Language	120
Mathematics	160	History and Geography	120

This scheme came into operation at the examination of 1885-86, and the number of failures at once rose, in round numbers, to 67 per cent. In the following year, it rose to 70 per cent. In order to ascertain which of the subjects caused the greatest number of failures, I have prepared the following tables :—

	1881-82		1882-83		1883-84		1884-85		1885-86	
	Number of failures.	Ratio.	Number of failures.	Ratio.	Number of failures.	Ratio.	Number of failures.	Ratio.	Number of failures.	Ratio.
English	1124	75	1012	63	1110	63	1715	62	2384	79
Mathematics ...	870	58	1057	65	980	55	1993	72	1941	65
Second Language...	672	45	914	57	848	48	1123	40	1486	49
History & Geography	604	40	501	36	508	28	1844	65	868	29

* *Failures in one subject only.*

	1881-82.		1882-83.		1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.	
	Number of failures.	Ratio.	Number of failures.	Ratio.	Number of failure.	Ratio.	Number of failure.	Ratio.	Number of failure.	Ratio.
English ...	205	13	112	6	240	13	166	6	501	16
Mathematics ...	106	7	183	11	224	12	301	10	323	10
Second Language	56	3	149	9	199	11	99	3	96	3
History and Geography ...	25	1	22	1	29	1	100	3	9	3

These tables show most clearly that English and Mathematics proved the most disastrous. Those subjects have always been the most difficult. A former Director of Public Instruction described them as the 'most fatal subjects,' and another called them 'the most lethal,' and assigning them a larger number of marks than before, brought on the evil of which the public so bitterly complain. The Principal of the Sanskrit College, Calcutta, called the attention of the Committee to this subject; but my colleagues have not taken it into their mature consideration, or asigned it that weight which its importance demanded. The rise from 100 to 200 and from 100 to 160 was an enormous leap, and my colleagues have failed to afford the relief that is needed. Both the preseut and the proposed numbers are much higher than what is required for the higher examination of First Arts, which is 150, and at that examination English of a higher standard is required than at the Entrance.

11. I do not at all advocate any lowering of standard in English; but I object to the raising of it in 1883, and the maintaining of the higher marks in the present report. I am deeply sensible of the value of English as an element of education under the present circumstances of the country. It was on that account that I objected to the scheme of Mr. Tawney, which, I thought, unduly lowered the value of the English language and literature in his alternative Entrance curriculum. But I cannot forget that the Government of India has denounced our present standard of English for the Entrance as too high for domiciled European and Eurasian youths, and devised a lower standard for them, which it requires should be reckoned as equal to the University Entrance standard, which is mainly intended

for Indians. If then the University standard is too high for European and Eurasian youths, whose mother tongue is English, it must *ipso facto* be excessively so to Indian boys, whose vernacular is totally and radically different. This is not fair; it is positively unjust; it should not be so. Were the standard fixed for the European and Eurasian boys made applicable to Indian youths, it would handicap them heavily, but I would not object to it. The political condition of this country renders it necessary that Indian boys should run on even terms with their foreign competitors; but I cannot but resent a penal addition of weight against them.

12. It might be said that excess of knowledge is *ipso facto* advantageous and not injurious, and therefore our higher standard need not be objected to. This, however, is a fallacious, delusive argument; it does not meet the real question at issue. We are not concerned in this connexion to discuss the substantive value of knowledge in any two given cases, but to enquire what is the amount of preliminary training *absolutely* necessary to qualify our youths to benefit by collegiate education. What this absolutely necessary quantity should be is indicated in the University records by the words 'English in its simpler forms.' This definition, though somewhat vague, is, I think, sufficient for a general rule, and I desire not to disturb it. My colleagues explain this definition by saying (Resolution (2) of February 5): 'English Grammar and Composition should be studied by Entrance students more with a view *to be able to write plain English correctly*, than with a view to learn the philosophy of the English tongue.' They add: 'and as great doubt and uncertainty prevails as to the scope and extent of this branch of the subject, a suitable text-book or text-books should be fixed or recommended for study.' Their scheme, however, is not consistent with their profession. They admit (paragraph 8) that their proposal 'imposes in one sense a higher standard than that which now prevails,' and they justify it by saying 'the number of students who just pass in this way, in the minimum of all subjects, must be very small indeed. These are not students whom the Committee desire to encourage.' I cannot concur in this opinion. I ask no favour or encouragement. All I insist upon is that which is just and fair, and the plan proposed is not so. I hold that to insist upon a higher qualification at the Entrance is to make the path of knowledge more thorny than what it need be. It involves the necessity of plucking much more extensively than what is required in the interest of popular education. The plucking of three thousand candidates annually and passing some fourteen hundred out of a total of four thousand four hundred is a positive scandal. Admitting that the less thoroughly trained would not make the brightest pupils in a college, I hold that they would still learn a great deal in a college and become better fitted to make worthy members of society by reading in a college than what they can be by being cast adrift at the Entrance with all chance of further study closed to them. The candidate plucked at the Entrance is literally lost to the community; but those who are plucked at the B. A. are nearly, if not quite, as good as a third-grade B.A. Indeed, the plan appears, though of course really not so intended, to serve as a check to a wide diffusion of useful knowledge.

13. I do not at all wish to hamper our professors by placing under them untrained youths. All I urge is that any boy who is able to follow the lessons or lectures of a collegiate teacher is by that fact proved to be duly qualified, and it has not yet been shown that up to 1883 our undergraduates who passed the Entrance under the 100-mark system were ill-fitted to follow their professors, and, subsequently, failed heavily in the collegiate examinations Hence I conclude that the scheme of marking adopted in 1883 was an injurious one, and no attempt has now been made to undo it. I feel it my duty, therefore, to place my protest against it. To follow our motto, we have to do everything 'to promote the advancement of learning,' and not to adopt technical subtleties to check that object.

RAJENDRALALA MITRA.

June 7, 1887

I concur.

SURYYA KUMAR ADHIKARI.

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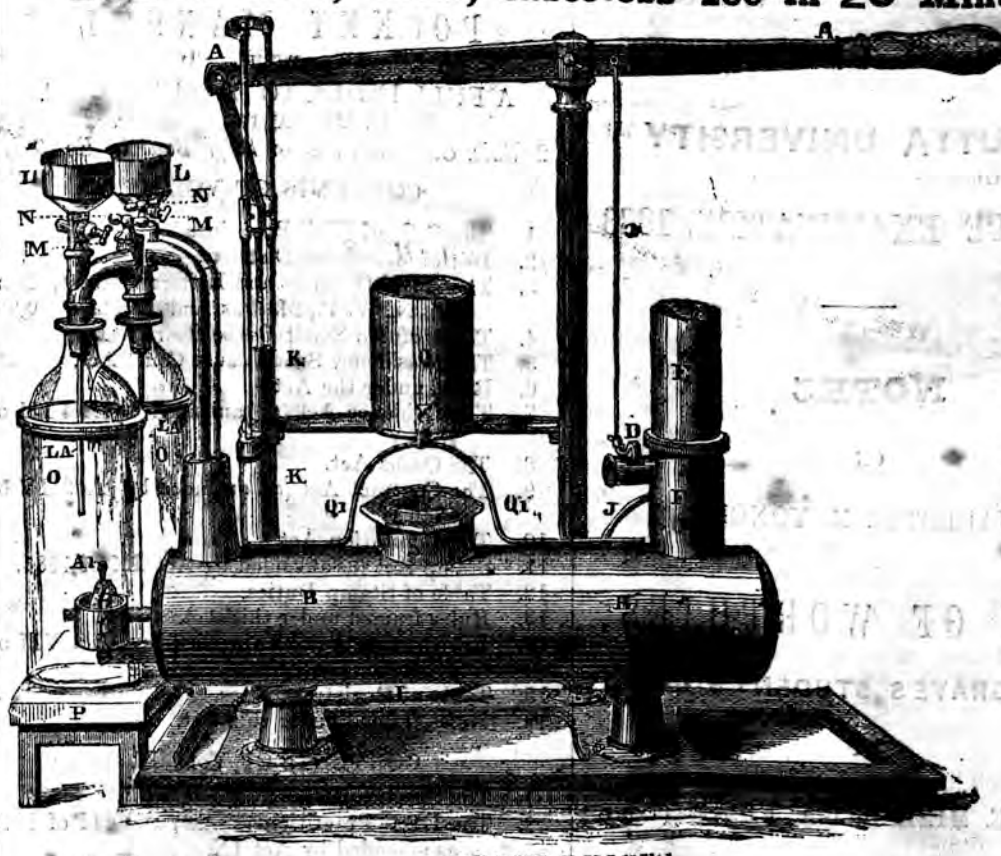

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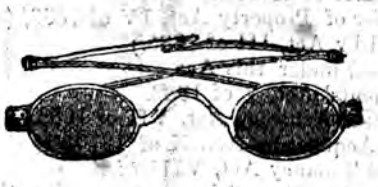

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